

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 FEA-02 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15

NIC-01 SCI-06 INT-08 AF-10 DRC-01 /202 W

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R 301005Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7519

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BU

SUBJECT: ENERGY CRISIS-BULGARIA

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

REF: STATE 9353, SOFIA 39, AND PREVIOUS

1. MEETING JANUARY 28 OF STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE  
REVIEWED IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
JANUARY 10 DECISION TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION OF LIQUID  
FUELS. CONTROL COMMISSION DISCOVERED THAT ALTHOUGH  
ALMOST 20,000 TONS HAD BEEN SAVED IN SOME OF 82  
ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES EXAMINED, OTHERS HAD USED OVER  
70,000 TONS OF FUEL IN EXCESS OF PLAN. AMONG THOSE  
CITED FOR VIOLATIONS WERE KREMIKOVSY STEEL WORKS, DIMI-  
TUR BLAGOEV MILLS AT PLOVDIV, AND STATE SUGAR COMBINE  
"ZLATAREV". ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT CONTROL COM-  
MISSION CITED "UNREALISTIC ESTIMATES OF FUEL CONSUMP-  
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TION", LACK OF CONTROL OVER RESERVES, AND BAD ORGANI-

ZATION OF PRODUCTION SCHEDULES AS PRIMARY REASONS FOR  
"GREAT OVER-EXPENDITURE OF LIQUID FUELS".

2. WE NOTE THAT GOB DELEGATION LED BY VICE CHAIRMAN  
COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL CO-  
OPERATION (KINTC) DEPARTED JANUARY 28 FOR DAMASCUS.  
ACCORDING TO MINISTER FOREIGN TRADE NEDEV DELEGATION  
HAS ONE PURPOSE: TO INCREASE SUPPLY OF OIL FROM SYRIA  
TO BULGARIA. NEDEV SAID RECENTLY THAT BULGARS HAD  
BEEN ABLE TO BUY ONLY 80,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL IN  
JANUARY FROM LIBYA, AND THAT DIFFICULTIES WITH IRAQI  
SUPPLIES CONTINUING. IN THAT CONNECTION EMBASSY WAS  
TOLD BY SHELL REPRESENTATIVE THAT STATE ECONOMIC OR-  
GANIZATION NEFTOCHIM HAS APPROACHED SHELL FOR PURCHASE  
OF 500,000 TONS OF CRUDE OIL (WHICH SHELL CANNOT SUPPLY).

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE REPORTED ENERGY SAVING  
MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY BULGARS, WE HAVE BELIEVED THAT  
PROBLEM OF SUPPLY FROM NON-SOVIET SOURCES REVOLVED AROUND  
PRICE QUESTION. IT NOW APPEARS, HOWEVER, THAT BULGARS  
ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE  
SUPPLIES EVEN AT WORLD MARKET PRICES. PRESS AND OTHER  
MEDIA CONTINUE TO HARP ON NEED TO CUT BACK CONSUMPTION  
OF LIQUID FUELS, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO GAUGE EFFECT  
SUCH MEASURES ARE HAVING ON PRODUCTIVITY.  
BATJER

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## Message Attributes

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